

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 7, 2011

**SENATE BILL**

**No. 699**

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**Introduced by Senator Runner**

February 18, 2011

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An act to amend Section 51225.3 of the Education Code, relating to pupil instruction.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 699, as amended, Runner. Pupil instruction: graduation requirements: pupil in foster care.

Existing law requires a pupil to complete specified courses while in grades 9 to 12, inclusive, in order to receive a diploma of graduation from high school. Existing law authorizes the governing board of a school district to adopt rules specifying additional coursework requirements. Existing law also provides that a school district shall exempt a pupil in foster care from all coursework and other requirements adopted by the governing board of the district that are in addition to the statewide coursework requirements for graduation if the pupil, while he or she is in grade 11 or 12, transfers into the district from another school district or between high schools within the district, unless the district makes a finding that the pupil is reasonably able to complete the additional requirements in time to graduate from high school while he or she remains eligible for foster care benefits.

This bill would instead provide that a school district shall exempt a pupil from all coursework and other requirements adopted by the governing board of the district that are in addition to the statewide coursework requirements for graduation if the pupil; *transfers between schools* while he or she is in grade 11 or 12; and ~~while he or she is in foster care, involuntarily transfers into the district from another school~~

~~district or between high schools within the district, unless the district makes a finding that the pupil is reasonably able to complete the additional requirements in time to graduate from high school on or before his or her 18th birthday. The bill would also provide that the pupil shall not be exempt if the school will continue to enroll the pupil until his or her 19th birthday and the district makes a finding that the pupil is reasonably able to complete the additional requirements on or before his or her 19th birthday by the end of the school year during which the pupil reaches his or her 18th birthday, or unless the adult holding the right to make educational decisions for the pupil, or the pupil, decides that exempting the pupil is not in the pupil's best interest. The bill also would require a school district to notify a pupil who transfers between schools while he or she is in grade 11 or 12 and in foster care whether or not he or she qualifies for an exemption within 30 days of transferring.~~

By requiring school districts to perform additional duties in complying with the exemption requirement, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to these statutory provisions.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.  
State-mandated local program: yes.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 51225.3 of the Education Code is
- 2 amended to read:
- 3 51225.3. (a) A pupil shall complete all of the following while
- 4 in grades 9 to 12, inclusive, in order to receive a diploma of
- 5 graduation from high school:
- 6 (1) At least the following numbers of courses in the subjects
- 7 specified, each course having a duration of one year, unless
- 8 otherwise specified:
- 9 (A) Three courses in English.
- 10 (B) Two courses in mathematics.

1 (C) Two courses in science, including biological and physical  
2 sciences.

3 (D) Three courses in social studies, including United States  
4 history and geography; world history, culture, and geography; a  
5 one-semester course in American government and civics; and a  
6 one-semester course in economics.

7 (E) One course in visual or performing arts or foreign language.  
8 For the purposes of satisfying the requirement specified in this  
9 subparagraph, a course in American Sign Language shall be  
10 deemed a course in foreign language.

11 (F) Two courses in physical education, unless the pupil has been  
12 exempted pursuant to the provisions of this code.

13 (2) Other coursework requirements adopted by the governing  
14 board of the school district.

15 (b) The governing board, with the active involvement of parents,  
16 administrators, teachers, and pupils, shall adopt alternative means  
17 for pupils to complete the prescribed course of study that may  
18 include practical demonstration of skills and competencies,  
19 supervised work experience or other outside school experience,  
20 career technical education classes offered in high schools, courses  
21 offered by regional occupational centers or programs,  
22 interdisciplinary study, independent study, and credit earned at a  
23 postsecondary institution. Requirements for graduation and  
24 specified alternative modes for completing the prescribed course  
25 of study shall be made available to pupils, parents, and the public.

26 (c) *(1)* Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a school  
27 district shall exempt a pupil from all coursework and other  
28 requirements adopted by the governing board of the district that  
29 are in addition to the statewide coursework requirements specified  
30 ~~in this section if the pupil, while he or she is in grade 11 or 12, and~~  
31 ~~while he or she is in foster care, involuntarily transfers into the~~  
32 ~~district from another school district or between high schools within~~  
33 ~~the district, unless the district makes a finding that the pupil is~~  
34 ~~reasonably able to complete the additional requirements in time~~  
35 ~~to graduate from high school on or before his or her 18th birthday.~~  
36 ~~The pupil shall not be exempt if the school will continue to enroll~~  
37 ~~the pupil until his or her 19th birthday and the district makes a~~  
38 ~~finding that the pupil is reasonably able to complete the additional~~  
39 ~~requirements on or before his or her 19th birthday. A school district~~  
40 ~~shall notify a pupil in foster care who is granted an exemption~~

1 pursuant to this subdivision, and, as appropriate, the person holding  
2 the right to make educational decisions for the pupil, if any of the  
3 requirements that are waived in this section if the pupil transfers  
4 between schools while he or she is in grade 11 or 12 and in foster  
5 care unless the district makes a finding that the pupil is reasonably  
6 able to complete the requirements in time to graduate from high  
7 school by the end of the school year during which the pupil reaches  
8 his or her 18th birthday. If the adult holding the right to make  
9 educational decisions for the pupil decides at any time or if the  
10 pupil decides at any time that it is not in the pupil's best interest  
11 to be exempted from local graduation requirements, the pupil shall  
12 not be exempted from those requirements.

13 (2) A school district shall notify a pupil who transfers between  
14 schools while he or she is in grade 11 or 12 and in foster care and,  
15 as appropriate, the person holding the right to make educational  
16 decisions for the pupil, whether or not the pupil qualifies for an  
17 exemption pursuant to this subdivision. The school district shall  
18 make the notification within 30 days of the pupil transferring.

19 (3) If a pupil transfers between schools while he or she is in  
20 grade 11 or 12 and in foster care and has not been exempted  
21 pursuant to this subdivision, a school district may so exempt the  
22 pupil, at any time, if the criteria set forth in this subdivision are  
23 satisfied.

24 (4) If a pupil transfers between schools while he or she is in  
25 grade 11 or 12 and in foster care and is exempted from local  
26 graduation requirements pursuant to this subdivision, the school  
27 district shall notify the pupil and, as appropriate, the person  
28 holding the right to make educational decisions for the pupil,  
29 whether any of the requirements that are waived will affect the  
30 pupil's ability to gain admission to a postsecondary educational  
31 institution and shall provide information about transfer  
32 opportunities available through the California Community  
33 Colleges.

34 SEC. 2. If the Commission on State Mandates determines that  
35 this act contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to  
36 local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made  
37 pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division  
38 4 of Title 2 of the Government Code.

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